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Memorandum

To: Healthcare Providers
Health Insurers and Health Plans

From: Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager

Date: July 2006

Subject: Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

On June 8, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration licensed Gardasil[®], manufactured by Merck and Co., Inc., a vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16 and 18, to prevent cervical cancer. The vaccine is approved for use in females 9-26 years of age.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations

On June 29, 2006 the ACIP recommended routine administration of HPV vaccine to girls at age 11-12. HPV vaccine is given on a 3 dose schedule (0, 2 and 6 months). The ACIP also recommended use of HPV vaccine for girls as young as 9 years of age, and girls and women 13-26 years of age.

The press release regarding HPV vaccine recommendations can be found at the following website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r060629.htm>

The provisional ACIP recommendations for the use of HPV vaccine will be posted on the ACIP website in the near future: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ACIP/default.htm>. When the final recommendations are published they will also be accessible on the ACIP website.

HPV Vaccine Supplied by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

At the current time, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is not supplying HPV vaccine.

The current procedural terminology (CPT) code for Gardasil[®] is 90649. Since providers will need to purchase HPV vaccine privately for the immunization of females 9-26 years of age, this code should be used for reimbursement.

We will keep you updated on the availability of state-supplied HPV vaccine. If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability please contact the MDPH Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.